

Moran's Ninth "Partners in Conservation" Tour to be Held in Central Kansas

HUTCHINSON - Congressman Jerry Moran has announced his upcoming conservation tour to learn more about conservation efforts in central Kansas. This year's ninth First District "Partners in Conservation" tour will feature stops in Reno, Marion, McPherson and Saline counties on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 7 and 8. Members of the media and press are invited to attend the tour.

"Conservation efforts and the protection of our natural resources are issues that every Kansan should care about," Moran said. "The conservation tour is a good opportunity for me to learn how private landowners, conservation groups and government programs are partnering to protect Kansas' environment. Information I learn on the tour is useful for me when making decisions in Washington, D.C."

Since coming to Congress, Moran has held regular conservation tours to study conservation practices in various parts of the state. This year's ninth tour will focus on a variety of conservation issues important to Kansas including water and soil conservation practices, wildlife habitat protection, grazing lands management, the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and preservation of wetlands.

On Tuesday, April 7, tour stops will feature presentations from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Farm Service Agency (FSA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and private landowners. Stops will include a CRP controlled burn demonstration site, a ranch in Marion County, Marion Reservoir, farms in McPherson County and the McPherson Valley Uplands. Topics of discussion will cover federal conservation programs, watershed and water quality issues, wildlife habitat protection, conservation tillage practices and irrigation systems.

The Wednesday, April 8, tour stops in McPherson and Saline Counties include presentations from NRCS, Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS), the Kansas Water Office, a local farmer and the City of Salina. Topics will include stream bank stabilization, sedimentation, no-till farming practices and residential water conservation programs.

Anyone interested is invited to attend at any point during the tour. The schedule is as follows:

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

10:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Opening Remarks and Introduction

Reno County

Hutchinson NRCS Field Office

18 E. 7th Ave. South Hutchinson, KS

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. CRP Controlled Burn Demonstration

Reno County - Tour Stop

(Directions: Take Hwy. 50 east of Hutchinson to Rayl Rd., turn north and park.)

12:15 – 2:30 p.m. Use of Fire as a Range Management Tool

Marion County – Lunch and Tour Stop

Fred Berns Ranch

1612 60th St., Peabody, KS

(Directions: Take Hwy. 50 east to Peabody. At Peabody, turn south on Maple Street just before the mileage distance sign. Maple Street turns into 60th Rd. and curves back to the east upon exiting the south edge of town. Berns' Ranch is located at the first white house on the north side of the highway.)

*** Lunch will be provided by Peabody Market for a price of \$7.50. Meal will include brisket sandwich, dinner roll, potato salad, cole slaw, baked beans, dessert, and choice of water or iced tea to drink. Anyone interested in joining the tour for lunch, please contact in advance the Salina District Office of Congressman Moran at (785) 309-0572 to allow for an accurate meal count.*

3:20 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Water Quality Issues at Marion Reservoir

Marion County – Tour Stop

Marion Reservoir - Cottonwood Point Swim Beach

(Directions from Peabody: Turn west on Hwy. 50, turn north on Nighthawk Rd., turn east on Hwy. 56; turn north onto Old Mill Rd. or Pawnee Rd. (both merge into one), turn west onto 220th Rd.)

5:00 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. Parallel Grass Strips and Subsurface Irrigation

McPherson County – Tour Stop

McPherson NRCS Field Office

200 S. Centennial Drive, Suite A, McPherson, KS

(Directions: The field office is located just off Hwy. 56/Kansas Ave.)

6:00 p.m. McPherson Valley Uplands Wildlife Habitat Improvement

McPherson County – Tour Stop

McPherson Valley Outdoor Education Center

(Directions: Going west of McPherson on Hwy. 56, turn north on 8th Ave., proceed north one mile, turn west onto Limestone Road and proceed one-quarter mile.)

Overnight

Double E Pheasant Ranch

2038 15th Ave., McPherson, KS

(Directions: Heading north from McPherson on Hwy. 81 Bypass/14th Ave., turn east on Pawnee Rd., go one mile, turn north on 15th Ave. and proceed one and one half miles.)

*** Those interested in staying at the lodge, please contact in advance the Salina District Office of Congressman Moran at (785) 309-0572 as space is limited. For more information on the Double E Pheasant Ranch visit <http://www.doubleepheasantranch.com/>.*

Wednesday, April 8, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. Stream Bank Stabilization and No-Till Farming Practices

McPherson County – Tour Stop

Larry and Edie Dahlsten Farm

922 Shawnee Rd., Lindsborg, KS

(Directions from Double E Pheasant Ranch: Heading north on 15th Ave., turn west on Pueblo Road, turn north on Hwy. 81 Bypass/14th Ave. and turn west on Shawnee Rd.)

10:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Residential Water Conservation

Saline County – Tour Stop

City of Salina

Salina City/County Offices

City Commission Room

300 W. Ash St., Salina, KS

(Directions from Dahlsten Farm: Heading east on Shawnee Rd., turn north on Highway 81 Bypass/14th Rd. This will take you to Lindsborg. From Lindsborg, take Hwy. 4 east to Interstate 70 and then take Interstate 70 north to Salina.)

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Press Conference

City of Salina

Salina City/County Offices

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